

LAW ENFORCEMENT CONSOLIDATION COMMITTEE

DATE: August 23, 2006

CALLED TO ORDER: 4:36 p.m.

ADJOURNED: 4:46 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

ATTENDING MEMBERS

Lonnell Conley, Chairman
Ron Gibson
Dane Mahern
Lynn McWhirter
William Oliver
Joanne Sanders
Lincoln Plowman

ABSENT MEMBERS

Marilyn Pfisterer

AGENDA

Update on Law Enforcement Consolidation Process

LAW ENFORCEMENT CONSOLIDATION COMMITTEE

The Law Enforcement Consolidation Committee of the City-County Council met on Wednesday, August 23, 2006. Chairman Lonnell Conley called the meeting to order at 4:36 p.m. with the following members present: Ron Gibson, Dane Mahern, Lynn McWhirter, William Oliver and Joanne Sanders. Lincoln Plowman arrived shortly thereafter. Marilyn Pfisterer was absent.

UPDATE ON LAW ENFORCEMENT CONSOLIDATION PROCESS

Penny Davis, Executive Director, Law Enforcement Transition Advisory Committee, provided members with a handout which showed that the committee has spent countless hours on the consolidation process. She said that at the Transition Authority's July meeting, they passed several recommendations: promotion list selection, promotion probationary period at six months, community policing functions to be carried out by the Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department (IMPD), computer applications, radio template, district manpower allocations, special services organization charts, IDACS (Indiana Data and Communications System) coordinator, Crime Stoppers, youth services programs, and 18 general orders.

Councillor Gibson asked if Ms. Davis knows which youth services programs were recommended. Ms. Davis said that she knows that the OK (Our Kids) Program was recommended, along with several others. Councillor Gibson said that this is the program he was concerned about.

Ms. Davis said that the August meeting of the Authority passed 45 general orders and recommendations on the IMPD unit numbers, as well as granting the Office of Finance and Management (OFM) and the Office of Corporation Counsel (OCC) the authority to enter into formal negotiations for the Northwest District Headquarters. She said that Marion County deputies are being fitted now for new uniforms, and OFM is working on negotiations with all vendors with regards to that issue. Everything seems to be on track with that part of the consolidation.

Councillor Mahern asked if the promotion list selection includes a breakdown of participation by minorities and women. Ms. Davis said that the list is not yet completed. Councillor Mahern asked if the transition group is working to make it as diverse as possible. Ms. Davis said that they are.

Councillor McWhirter asked if the Councillors receive copies of these recommendations. Ms. Davis said that she thought Councillor McWhirter was on the list to receive copies of the recommendations. She said that she knows members of this Committee, Councillors Sanders and Oliver, receive copies of the recommendations, as well as the President and Minority Leader. She said that the recommendations go through various committees before they are passed by the Authority. Councillor McWhirter asked if she could be added to the list of individuals receiving copies of these recommendations. Ms. Davis said that she will gladly add her to the list.

Councillor Gibson commended Ms. Davis on the fine job she does of coordinating all of these meetings. He asked if there are any particular challenges that need more focused attention in the coming three months before the merger takes place. Ms. Davis said that everything seems to be trending properly, but there are always challenges as they work out all the logistics. Facilities will be somewhat of a challenge, but half the battle is knowing what the districts will look like, and that has already been determined.

Councillor Oliver said that one of his biggest concerns has been regarding lessened manpower on beats and less community policing. He asked if the maps of police beats are still the same and the manpower in each beat will remain as it is. Ms. Davis said that the maps are the same, and their projections are that by 2008, all beats will be covered all the time.

Councillor Mahern asked about the negotiations for the Northwest District Headquarters and where this may be located. Ms. Davis said that they are looking at a property in the West 38th Street area. Councillor Mahern said asked if this headquarters is then more centrally located. Ms. Davis said that this is correct. Councillor Sanders stated that the proper ordinance for approval of the lease is slated to be introduced at the next Council meeting to be heard by the Administration and Finance Committee.

Councillor Sanders commended Ms. Davis and all those serving diligently on the various committees. She said that the amount of information and discussion that is taking place makes it clear that everything is being uncovered and considered in order to make the appropriate recommendations. Ms. Davis agreed and stated that this committee of 43 members has spent countless hours on this process, and their dedication and commitment continues to be strong.

Chairman Conley asked if during these many hours of discussion, Ms. Davis has seen comraderie grow among the rank and file toward this transition. Ms. Davis said that she has definitely seen a change and, while there are still some who keep holding on and resisting change, the majority seem to be ready for the transition. She added that many have commented that they wish it were January so that they could just get on with it.

[Clerk's Note: Councillor Plowman arrived at 4:45 p.m.]

Chairman Conley thanked Ms. Davis for providing the Committee with valuable information and keeping them informed. There being no further business, and upon motion duly made, the meeting was adjourned at 4:46 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lonnell Conley, Chairman